

receives said dummy data from said lens controller in the case where said lens controller receives said command, said rear converter sending said rear converter data to said body controller in synchronization with an operation of said body controller in which said body controller receives said dummy data.---

### **REMARKS**

Re-examination and allowance of the present application is respectfully requested.

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 2 and 4-6 contain allowable subject matter, and that these claims would be allowable if amended to be placed into independent form, including the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

By the present amendment, Applicants amend independent claim 1 to include the subject matter of objected claim 2. Due to the present amendment, claim 2 is canceled. Further, Applicants amend independent claim 7 to include the subject matter of objected claim 2. As a result of the present amendment, Applicants submit that it is not necessary to specifically discuss the rejections, as pending claims 1 and 2-7 are allowable over the art of record. The Examiner is respectfully requested to indicate such, and to pass this application to issue.

Further, Applicants submit new claims 9 and 10 for the Examiner's consideration. New independent claim 9 corresponds to the combination of original claim 1 and objected claim 4. New dependent claim 10 corresponds to objected claim 5. As claims 4 and 5 were

previously indicated by the Examiner to be allowable over the art of record, the Examiner is respectfully requested to re-confirm such allowability with respect to claims 9 and 10.

In view of the fact that the art of record does not disclose or suggest (either individually or in combination) the present invention as defined by the pending claims, and further in view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the Examiner's action and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested and are believed to be appropriate.

Applicants wish to clarify the record with respect to the basis for the patentability of the claims in the present application. While Applicants do not disagree with the Examiner's indication that certain identified features are not disclosed by the references, as noted by the Examiner, Applicants further wish to clarify that the claims in the present application recite a combination of features, and the basis for patentability of these claims is based on the totality of the features recited therein.

Any amendments to the claims which have been made in this amendment, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

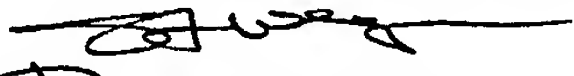
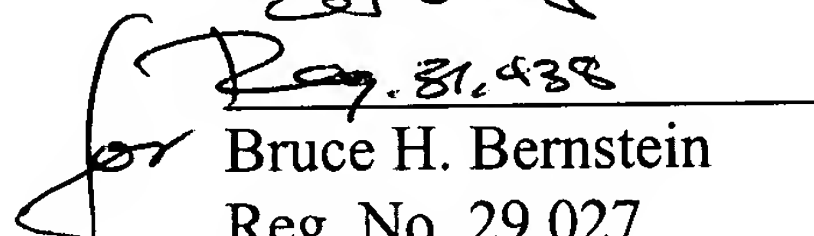
Should the Commissioner determine that an extension of time is required in order to render this response timely and/or complete, a formal request for an extension of time, under

37 C.F.R. §1.136(a), is herewith made in an amount equal to the time period required to render this response timely and/or complete. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any required extension of time fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17 to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments regarding this Response, or the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

June 10, 2003  
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## APPENDIX A - MARKED UP CLAIMS

1 (Amended). An interchangeable lens camera system having a camera body, a photographing lens, and a rear converter which can be mounted between said camera body and said photographing lens, said camera body having a first group of contacts, said photographing lens having a second group of contacts, said camera body and said photographing lens communicating with each other via said first group of contacts and said second group of contacts with said first group of contacts being electrically connected with said second group of contacts, respectively, wherein said rear converter comprises:

a group of relay channels via which said first group of contacts of said camera body are electrically connected with said second group of contacts of said photographing lens, respectively, in a state where said rear converter is mounted between said camera body and said photographing lens;

a rear converter memory in which rear converter data on said rear converter is stored, said rear converter memory including at least one port electrically connected to corresponding at least one relay channel of said group of relay channels; and

a rear converter controller which controls a reading operation of said rear converter data from said rear converter memory, said rear converter controller including at least one port electrically connected to corresponding at least one relay channel of said group of relay channels [;] ,

wherein said rear converter memory and said rear converter controller have a function

to send said rear converter data to said camera body while said camera body and said photographing lens communicate with each other via said first group of contacts, said second group of contacts, and said group of relay channels,

wherein said camera body comprises a body controller that communicates with a lens memory of said photographing lens to read photographing lens data from said lens memory, a portion of said photographing lens data serving as dummy data for said rear converter, said rear converter data being read out of said rear converter memory to be transmitted to said body controller in synchronization with an operation of said body controller in which said body controller receives said dummy data.

6 (Amended). The interchangeable lens camera system according to claim [2] 1, wherein said body controller is set to recognize one of a last one byte and a last few types of said photographing lens data as said dummy data for said rear converter.

7 (Amended). A rear converter which can be mounted between a camera body and a photographing lens of an interchangeable lens camera system, said camera body having a first group of contacts, said photographing lens having a second group of contacts, said camera body and said photographing lens communicating with each other via said first group of contacts and said second group of contacts with said first group of contacts being electrically connected to said second group of contacts, respectively, wherein said rear converter comprises:

a group of relay channels via which said first group of contacts of said camera body are electrically connected with said second group of contacts of said photographing lens, respectively, in a state where said rear converter is mounted between said camera body and said photographing lens;

a rear converter memory in which rear converter data is stored, said rear converter memory including ports electrically connected to at least one relay channel of said group of relay channels; and

a rear converter controller which controls a reading operation of said rear converter data from said rear converter memory, said rear converter controller including ports electrically connected to at least one relay channel of said group of relay channels;

wherein said rear converter memory and said rear converter controller have a function to send said rear converter data to said camera body while said camera body and said photographing lens communicate with each other via said first group of contacts, said second group of contacts, and said group of relay channels,

wherein said camera body comprises a body controller that communicates with a lens memory of said photographing lens to read photographing lens data from said lens memory, a portion of said photographing lens data serving as dummy data for said rear converter, said rear converter data being read out of said rear converter memory to be transmitted to said body controller in synchronization with an operation of said body controller in which said body controller receives said dummy data.